

	California Transportation Commission	
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For Immediate Release:

California Transportation Commission moves to enhance Equity and Climate considerations in transportation funding decisions

New standing Equity Advisory Committee and proposed changes to funding programs will promote more equitable outcomes across California

SACRAMENTO –At its June 29-30 meeting, held in Sacramento, the Commission approved the structure for a standing interagency Equity Advisory Committee and considered draft guidelines that enhance how equity and climate should be considered when awarding funds to transportation projects in competitive grant programs.

The Equity Advisory Committee, to be convened in partnership with the California State Transportation Agency and the California Department of Transportation, will advise the convening agencies on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic opportunities.

“The creation of the standing Equity Advisory Committee is an important step in developing a transportation system that meets the needs of all Californians,” said Lee Ann Eager, Chair of the California Transportation Commission. “The input provided by the Committee will be invaluable as we continue to redress historic wrongs inflicted by the transportation system and move toward a more equitable society.”

Previously, the Commission adopted a Racial Equity Statement in January 2021, which recognized the historically disproportionate burdens imposed by California’s transportation system, condemned all forms of racism, and affirmed the Commission’s intention to promote equitable outcomes through its programs, policies, and practices. Since then, the Commission has convened an interim Equity Advisory Roundtable, which has met regularly since April 2021.

At its meeting, the Commission also heard presentations on draft updates to the guidelines for the Trade Corridors Enhancement Program, the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program, and the Local Partnership Program – programs funded by the state’s gas tax under Senate Bill 1, The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

“Proposed updates to these guidelines enhance equity and climate considerations in the decision-making process for these critical funding programs and represent an important step in the implementation of the Commission’s Racial Equity Statement,” said Mitch Weiss, Executive Director of the California Transportation Commission. “The revised guidelines will make meaningful changes to how transportation funds flow through our grant programs while still ensuring the core program objectives, such as moving freight more efficiently, are being met.”

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Under the proposed guidelines, applicants would be required to provide more detailed information about the project’s benefits and impacts to disadvantaged or historically impacted and marginalized communities. The guidelines would also elevate Community Engagement to an evaluation criterion, requiring applicants to ensure the project selection process results in projects that are more equitable to disadvantaged or historically impacted and marginalized communities. The proposed guidelines also incorporate every Commission-led short-term program strategy in the California State Transportation Agency’s Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure, and early implementation of several medium-term strategies.

The draft program guidelines are expected to be considered by the Commission for approval at the Commission’s August meeting, to be held August 17-18 in San Jose and virtually.

More information about the California Transportation Commission may be found at: <http://www.catc.ca.gov/>.

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